

Regular Session, October 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

Catawba County Board of Adjustment 448 10/19/09

Catawba County Historical Museum

Work Session 449 10/19/09

Sheriff's Office

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant 448 10/19/09

Work Session

Catawba County Historical Museum 449 10/19/09

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session and a work session on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse in Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Lynn M. Lail and Commissioners Dan A. Hunsucker, Glenn E. Barger and Barbara G. Beatty.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris, County Attorney Debra Bechtel, Deputy County Attorney Anne Marie Pease, and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Dan A. Hunsucker offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Dan A. Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Joint Meeting with Catawba Valley Community College Board of Trustees of September 28, 2009, and the Regular and Closed Sessions of October 5, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed all present and specifically recognized the members of the Catawba County Historical Association Board, Charlotte Williams of the Hickory Board of Education and Randy Isenhour of both the Historical Association Board and the Newton/Conover Board of Education.
6. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda: None.
7. Appointments.
Commissioner Barbara Beatty recommended the reappointment of Robert Eades for a first full term (as an alternate), Larry Johnson for a fourth term (first full term as a regular member following three terms as an alternate and an unexpired term as a regular member) and Richard Thompson, Jr. for a sixth term on the Catawba County Board of Adjustment. These terms will expire November 30, 2012. This recommendation came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.
8. Departmental Reports:
Sheriff's Office:
Sheriff L. David Huffman presented a request for the Board to accept a grant from the US Department of Justice's State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in the amount of \$31,745. The SCAAP is a formula-based grant program which provides agencies with reimbursement for some of the costs associated with housing undocumented criminal aliens in local jail facilities. There are no matching funds required for this award. It is funded entirely by the

Federal Government. These grant funds are based on individuals held in the Newton Detention Center and those held for Catawba County at the Burke-Catawba District Confinement Facility in Morganton during fiscal year 2007-2008. Funds under this program may be used for correctional purposes only. These funds will be used for medical services in the jail. This expense is unpredictable during the year, because it is dependant on the inmates' presented medical conditions and the need fluctuates as the population changes. Commissioner Glen Barger made a motion to accept these grant funds. The motion carried unanimously. The following appropriations apply:

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

Revenue

110-220050-620385	\$31,745
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)	

Appropriation:

110-220050-856300	\$31,745
Medical Services	

9. Other Items of Business: None.
10. Attorneys' Report: None.
11. Manager's Report: None.
12. Adjournment: Chair Barnes adjourned the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. She then declared the Board in a work session starting at 7:10 p.m.

WORK SESSION

The Board received an update on the condition of the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge from Melinda Herzog, Director of the Catawba County Historical Museum and Jacky Eubanks, the County's Director of Planning, Parks and Development, during this work session which followed the Board's regular agenda.

Designated as a National Civil Engineering Landmark in 2001, the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge is the only remaining example in wood of the Improved Lattice Truss design patented by General Herman Haupt. It is one of only two original remaining covered bridges in North Carolina. According to the Catawba County Historical Museum's web site, the bridge was built in 1895 by Andy L. Ramsour. In 1894, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners called on the owners of Bunker Hill Farm, located nearby, to build and maintain a bridge that would cross Lyle's Creek on the old Island Ford Road, a former Native American trail. The landowners hired Ramsour, keeper of the Horseford covered bridge that spanned the Catawba River north of Hickory. He likely found Haupt's design in a popular book on bridge building. Originally constructed as an open span, the bridge, which has a 91 foot long roof, was covered in 1900. In 1921, its wooden shingles were replaced with a tin roof. Bolick Family members donated the bridge to the Catawba County Historical Association in 1985, which restored it in 1994 with the expertise of Arnold M. Graton, a master bridgewright from Ashland, New Hampshire.

Ms. Herzog narrated a PowerPoint presentation which documented the history of the bridge, and vandalism and graffiti that have been occurring at this site. Mr. Eubanks reviewed the topography, the ownership of the property surrounding the bridge, and the hurdles faced in securing the bridge property from trespassing and vandalism. Options for improving the security of the property surrounding the bridge were discussed by the Board of Commissioners, members of the Catawba County Historical Association Board of Directors, Catawba County Sheriff David Huffman and County staff. Possible purchase of adjoining property was suggested by Association Board members and the Board of Commissioners and the County Manager encouraged the Historical Museum staff/Board to seek donations of this land to the Association. Sheriff Huffman listed various steps that could be taken to improve the security of the site and offered assistance in many of the options presented. Since Ms. Herzog and Association staff had not had discussions with the Sheriff

regarding the security problems prior to meeting with the Board of Commissioners, it was agreed that Ms. Herzog and Historical Museum staff would work with Sheriff Huffman toward suggestions he had for improving security.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn the work session at 8:10 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris
County Clerk